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Since January of last year, a "gabinete bacteriologico" exists, joined to the institute. Of 26 cases of diphtheria, which were declared to the authorities, the bacteriological examination was executed 14 times, of which 12 times the examination was made in the institute.

Three patients died of diphtheria.

Through the institute were distributed gratuitously 273 bottles with serum, prepared by Roux, and 86 bottles of serum antistreptococcique, prepared by Marmorek.

Since last report, the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: April 14, steamship *Atala*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies. April 16, steamship *Wordsworth*, Belgian, for New York; steamship *Palatine*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies; steamship *Coleridge*, British, for New York. April 18, steamship *Carolina*, French, for New Orleans. April 19, steamship *Eastern Prince*, British, for New York; bark *Artisana*, British, for Pensacola. April 20, steamship *Severn*, British, for Baltimore; steamship *Herschel*, British, for New York; steamship *Asti*, German, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,
Acting Sanitary Inspector U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Plague in Hongkong and Canton.

PORT TOWNSEND QUARANTINE,
Port Townsend, Wash., May 3, 1898.

SIR: In connection with the recent increase of plague in Hongkong (78 cases and 50 deaths in two weeks ended April 5, 1898), it may be of interest to repeat statements made to me yesterday by the surgeon of the steamship *Columbia*, just arrived from Yokohama. While the ship lay at Hongkong, he went to Canton. The only report obtainable indicated 10 deaths from plague in the previous two weeks; but he passed many funeral processions during the day, and gained the impression that the disease was prevailing to a greater extent than reported. He also mentioned that a physician in Hongkong (and I infer it to be Dr. J. M. Atkinson, the British colonial surgeon in charge of the government hospitals), in his investigations of plague, has discovered the bacillus of plague in the bodies of the common fleas, and infers that these may be a prolific source of the contagion, as they are to be found everywhere.

Respectfully yours,

S. D. BROOKS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKEY.

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Constantinople, May 3, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit Dr. Zavitziano's health report No. 190 on the subject of the bubonic plague at Djiddah.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES B. ANGELL.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure—Report No. 190.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 2, 1898.

The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from the 14th of March up to the 24th of last April is 1,678. From the 14th to the 20th of March, 314 deaths have been registered, of which 3 were from scarlet fever, 3 from measles, 14 from smallpox, and 6 from typhoid fever. From the 21st to the 27th of March, there have been 309 deaths, of which 2 were from scarlet fever, 7 from measles, 8 from smallpox, and 9 from diphtheria. From the 28th of March to the 3d of April, there have been 295 deaths, of which 1 was from scarlet fever, 1 from measles, 3 from smallpox, 9 from typhoid fever, and 1 from diphtheria. From the 10th to the 17th of April, the number of deaths registered was 249, of which 9 were from smallpox, 6 from typhoid fever, and 4 from diphtheria. From the 18th to the 24th of April, 281 deaths have been registered, of which 4 were from measles, 6 from smallpox, 11 from typhoid fever, and 2 from diphtheria.

It can be observed that at the end of the month of March the epidemics which caused so many deaths began to abate. There are still many fresh cases of la grippe, as well as of measles, but, many as they may be, they do not represent 50 per cent of the number of cases of one or two months ago.

A character of the epidemic of measles of this year is the hyperpyrexia and the relapses which have been so frequently observed. The influenza had a very long course, as well as repeated relapses.

The sanitary news from the provinces of the Turkish Empire is good, though I do not suppose one can rely upon such news. The sanitary conditions of the Turkish provinces are very imperfect. One can read in the local newspapers that the authorities do not supply with food, even bread, the persons who have been arrested and imprisoned.

According to the report forwarded by the sanitary physician of the province of Yemen, famine is raging in the eastern part of the latter province at a distance of 100 hours' march from the coast. The famine is a consequence of the drought. About 80 per cent of the cattle have already perished. There is an epidemic of typhoid fever.

In Djiddah, since April 16, no fresh bubonic plague case has been observed. That is the statement of the official sanitary news cabled every day. It is not necessary to remember that nearly everywhere ignorant people try to hide from the authorities the cases of contagious diseases. In places like Djiddah, people not only hide the patients, but if the authorities insist upon examining the patients, if the latter are women, troubles break out. It has been communicated that 600 soldiers have been sent from Mecca to Djiddah for the execution of the sanitary steps decided on by the International Sanitary Commission, but in spite of the military forces and the stringent orders given by the Sublime Porte, serious troubles have occurred, during which two physicians have been ill-treated and beaten. According to a report written April 5 by the French consul at Djiddah, a Muezzin (or Mussulman priest) has been imprisoned by the authorities for having preached against the sanitary steps and incited to rebellion. Dr. Cozzonis, the Inspector-General of the Ottoman Sanitary Service, who, as already reported, has been sent to Djiddah to take the direction of the sanitary service, wired, directly after his arrival at the latter town, that the steps adopted are illusive. I have the honor to inclose the cablegrams received, as well as the communication signed by the sanitary representatives of England, France, Austria, Italy, and Holland, by which they ask about the adhesion of the Ottoman Government to the decisions of the sanitary conferences of Paris and Venice. Dr. Cozzonis wired, April 25, that public health at Djiddah, as well as at Mecca, is good; that 1 of the 2 physicians attacked and ill-treated is doing well, but is not allowed to examine women at all; that the isolation of Djiddah is illusive. On April 29 he wires again that the sanitary steps taken some days since are slackened. Communication between Djiddah and Mecca already exists. The governor of Djiddah reports to the Ottoman Government that it is nearly impossible to oblige the pilgrims going away from the Hedjaz to embark at Ras-el-as-suad on account of the burning sun, the want of water, and of other provisions.

We know by the British sanitary representative that, according to the British consul at Djiddah and the captain of the steamship *Zubeidah*, the largest steamer fetching pilgrims, that Ras-el-as-suad is a much more convenient place for landing and embarking pilgrims than Djiddah. In fact, from the 32,000 pilgrims landed in the Hedjaz, 14,000 have landed at Ras-el-as-suad.

In consequence of the news, according to which the sanitary steps are slackened and communication between Djiddah and Mecca are free, it has been decided to allow the pilgrims to embark at Djiddah, and at the same time the pilgrims, as well as all the Hedjaz, have been considered contaminated. The arrivals from all the ports of the latter province will be submitted to quarantine.

It may be that no bubonic plague exists at Djiddah or among the pilgrims, but we can not be sure of the fact. During the discussion raised by the communication of the

news wired by Dr. Cozzonis, there has been question about the responsibilities for the facts. I do not suppose that it is easy to state who is responsible for the slackening of the sanitary steps.

According to official news, bubonic plague cases have been observed in Calcutta. This news, which arrived on April 27, was communicated at the last sitting, April 30. On April 12 bubonic plague was declared epidemic at Kurrachee.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CANADA—*Windsor—Nova Scotia.*—Month of April, 1898. Estimated population, 3,000. Total deaths, 2, including 1 from phthisis pulmonalis.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended April 30 correspond to an annual rate of 18.4 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,218,378. The highest rate was recorded in Liverpool, viz, 30.0, and the lowest in Cardiff, viz, 10.3.

London.—One thousand four hundred and eighty-five deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 107; scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 39; whooping cough, 70; enteric fever, 7, and diarrhea and dysentery, 10. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 17.2 a thousand. In greater London 1,951 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.9 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 27 from measles, 14 from diphtheria, and 17 from whooping cough.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended April 30 in the 23 principal town districts of Ireland was 24.7 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Lurgan, viz, 4.6, and the highest in Tralee, viz, 50.4 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 170 deaths were registered, including enteric fever, 2; whooping cough, 3, and diphtheria, 2.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended April 30 correspond to an annual rate of 21.8 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,568,536. The lowest mortality was recorded in Edinburgh, viz, 17.2, and the highest in Perth, viz, 27.2 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 657, including smallpox, 1; measles, 35; scarlet fever, 6; diphtheria, 1, and whooping cough, 34.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA—*Carthagera.*—Month of March, 1898. Estimated population, 25,000. Total deaths, 21. No deaths from contagious diseases.